

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are currently being amended.

Claims 16-20 are currently being added.

This amendment amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Objection to the Drawings:

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because the drawings do not include a reference ("810") that is referred to in the specification. By way of this amendment and reply, the specification has been amended to correct the reference label from "810" to "820". Accordingly, the drawings are unobjectionable.

Claim Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,557,780 to Edwards et al.; and claims 6, 9, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0135584 to Roberts et al. These rejections are traversed

with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 recites:

storing a plurality of maps for respectively mapping metadata from different types of source documents to variables of a virtual document;

receiving a source data model having a first EDI format corresponding to EDI related data, the source data model including metadata;

determining a type of the source data model from the metadata;

obtaining a first map from the plurality of stored maps based on the determined type of the source data model, and mapping the metadata of the source data model to corresponding variables of a virtual document in accordance with the first map;

determining a type of a target data model to which data from the source data model is to be transferred to;

obtaining a second map from the plurality of stored maps based on the determined type of the target data model, and mapping the variables of the virtual document to metadata of a target data model having a second EDI format in accordance with the second map.

The use of stored maps in order to map metadata of a source model to corresponding variables of a virtual document, and to map the variables of the virtual document to metadata of a target data model, as well as determinations made to determine which of the stored maps to utilize, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art of record.

Presently pending independent claims 5, 8 and 12 recites similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and thus those independent claims are also patentable over the cited art of record.

With respect to presently pending independent claim 15, that claim recites:

assigning, by a first user, a first plurality of maps from metadata elements of different types of source documents to variables of a virtual document;

assigning, by a second user, a second plurality of maps from the variables of the virtual document to metadata elements of a target EDI document or message;

pulling values assigned to the metadata elements of the received EDI document or message to the variables of the virtual document, based on a source document-to-virtual document mapping that corresponds to one of the first plurality of maps that is automatically determined based on a type of the metadata elements of the received EDI document or message; and

pushing values assigned to the variables of the virtual document to metadata elements of the target EDI document or message, based on a target document-to-virtual document mapping that corresponds to one of the second plurality of maps that is automatically determined based on a type of the metadata elements of the target EDI document or message.

Such features as recited in presently pending independent claim 15 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The dependent claims are patentable due to their dependence on one of the presently pending independent claims discussed above, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims. For example, dependent claim 4 recites that the maps are created by a user prior to receiving the source data model, based on an intuitive correspondence made by the user from a particular metadata name of one of the metadata of the source data model and a particular semantic name of one of the variables of the virtual document. Claims 7, 11 and 14 recite similar features. Such features are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art of record, which do not provide for a user to create such maps based on an intuitive correspondence made by the user.

Accordingly, these dependent claims provide further patentable features of the present invention.

New Claims:

New claims 16-20 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, since all of the objections are rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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